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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Walzlagerwerk Fraureuth

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE (OF INFO.)

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1. Due to shortages of material, the Walzlagerwerk Fraureuth was unable to deliver in January 1954 the orders for China required of it. The order calls for 23,000 heavy bearings, probably into powerful Diesel engines or in the shipbuilding industry. The orders from the Soviet Zone Ministry for machine construction likewise were not fulfilled.
2. Production of bearings in January 1954 was about 620,000 pieces. About 10,000 of these were roller bearings with plastic cages. These bearings are made only for the VEB plants. Deliveries to the Soviet Union were maintained in spite of the shortage of material. They comprised about 6,000 needle bearings. The needles were obtained from Sweden by way of Poland. The Fraureuth works still have about 200,000 needle sets, but the production of needle bearings cannot be increased because only a few machines are available for the necessary precision work.
3. The shortages of material have arisen because the Fraureuth works have had to deliver material to the Zella-Mehlis bearing works. In addition, Poland has suddenly refused to accept any more bearings with plastic cages. Poland has also stopped further deliveries of steel. All orders from Poland are jeopardized by this situation.

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